

EXHIBIT A

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| Regina Mier@MERCK |
| [REDACTED] 14:39 |
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To: Joerg Beythien/CNBI/Merck@CNBI2, Peter
White/CNBI/Merck@CNBI2
cc:
Subject: I [REDACTED]
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Invention Report I [REDACTED] "Method for preparing C-terminally labelled peptides"

Dear Dr. Beythien, dear Dr. White,

in the attachment you can find a draft version of the patent application corresponding to the above mentioned invention report.

Please, review the text carefully. If you have any comments, additions or changes, please, introduce them into the text (and mark them) or let me know otherwise.

In addition, a list of all abbreviations (used in the text and in the examples) and the respective full names is needed.

Besides, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that it seems to be impossible to be absolutely sure that there is no prior art which already discloses some of the claimed building blocks. As the building blocks do not necessarily comprise an amino acid or peptide, there might be relevant prior art outside the field of peptide chemistry. For this reason, it is extremely important to make sure, that preferred embodiments of the building block are clearly defined (i.e. embodiments comprising a preferred chemical structure, embodiments which are especially easy to manufacture/use, embodiments which you intend to sell etc.). If there is any prior art destroying novelty of general formula I we might then have the possibility to restrict the claims to the preferred embodiments.

After receiving your comments I will write a final version of the patent application. If you agree with this final version it will be filed at the European Patent Office.

Please, note that we have not yet received a signed version of the MAPI documents.

Best regards

Patent Department, Merck KGaA

Regina Mier

(See attached file: rr[REDACTED]-c-peptide.doc)

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